

# United States Department of the Interior

## FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE

California/Nevada Operations Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W-2610  
Sacramento, California 95825



SEP 6 2006

To Interested Parties:

The Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) and the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) are encouraging prospective applicants to submit proposals for the fiscal year 2007 Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) (also known as the CVPIA (b)(1) "other" Program). **The objective of the CVPCP and HRP is to improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the CVP.** Prospective applicants are Federal and State government agencies, private non-profit or profit organizations, and individuals. This letter serves to inform potential project applicants of three important topics concerning our proposal solicitation for fiscal year 2007: (1) fiscal year 2007 priorities, (2) distribution of CVPCP and HRP funds, and (3) proposal submission guidelines.

**If selected for funding, some proposals received under this fiscal year 2007 solicitation may be funded in early fiscal year 2008 (instead of fiscal year 2007), depending on availability of funds.**

### Fiscal Year 2007 Priorities

The CVPCP and HRP have established priorities related to species, habitats, and geographic areas. **Well-conceived proposals that address the priorities listed below will be given preference during proposal review.** These priorities have been developed specifically for fiscal year 2007. They reflect the most current evaluation of species needs and habitat trends and are complementary to other on-going actions within the Central Valley. They also take into account historical levels of investment as well as future threats to specific ecosystems. The following are CVPCP and HRP priorities for fiscal year 2007 and they are listed in the order of preference:

- 1) Serpentine soil and associated habitats supporting endemic species, such as the bay checkerspot butterfly and serpentine plants, in Santa Clara County. For this habitat and geographic priority, the CVPCP and HRP are particularly interested in proposals that emphasize (a) preservation of existing habitat and protection from incompatible land uses; (b) restoration of degraded habitat by reintroduction of grazing, protection from overgrazing, etc.; (c) protection and management of occupied and unoccupied serpentine grasslands that act as corridors or stepping stones between known populations of bay checkerspot butterfly and other listed serpentine species; (d) outreach to landowners with serpentine habitat regarding pesticide use, grazing, and conservation easements; (e) development of propagation techniques for listed plants and host and nectar plants of bay checkerspot

butterfly; and (f) implementation of priority one tasks for serpentine species found in the *Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area* (USFWS 1998a)<sup>1</sup>.

- 2) Vernal pool habitats throughout the Central Valley supporting federally-listed vernal pool invertebrates, California tiger salamander, and listed plant species including slender Orcutt grass, Greene's tuctoria, Colusa grass, Hoover's spurge, and fleshy-owl's clover. High priority actions include, but are not limited to, (a) protection, through fee title or easement acquisition, of existing vernal pool complexes supporting listed species in Zone 1 Core Areas (especially sites that are known to be inhabited by narrowly endemic federally-listed species); (b) research on vernal pool habitats, including response of listed species to various land uses, effects of invasive plants, effects of contaminants, restoration and management methods, vernal pool species dispersal mechanisms, GIS and remote sensing analyses to locate vernal pool areas and dispersal corridors between preserves for conservation and to provide refugia; and (c) development of vernal pool management plans based on peer reviewed research findings. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks in Zones 1 Core Areas for vernal pool species found in the *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005)<sup>1</sup>.
- 3) Remnant or restorable alkali sink, alkali scrub, and valley grassland habitat located on the floor of the San Joaquin Valley that contributes to the core and satellite population areas and habitat linkages and corridors for San Joaquin kit fox<sup>2</sup>, blunt-nosed leopard lizard, Tipton kangaroo rat, giant kangaroo rat, Fresno kangaroo rat, Buena Vista Lake shrew, federally listed plant species, and other species dependent upon this habitat complex. High priority actions include protection, through fee title or easement acquisition. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for upland species of the San Joaquin Valley found in the *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b)<sup>1</sup>.
- 4) Habitat protection and management activities in eastern Contra Costa and eastern Alameda counties that will help conserve listed species located there. Priority will be given to conservation actions for (a) grassland habitats used by San Joaquin kit fox that provide regional linkage between eastern Contra Costa and eastern Alameda counties and areas outside the counties; (b) chaparral/grassland/oak savannah matrix important for Alameda whipsnake feeding, breeding, dispersal, and movement; (c) grassland habitat that provides breeding, dispersal, and colonization opportunities for California tiger salamander; (d) aquatic breeding and upland movement/aestivation habitat for California red-legged frog; and (e) vernal pool habitat that supports listed crustaceans. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one and two tasks for eastern Contra Costa and eastern Alameda counties species found in the following recovery plans: *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b)<sup>1</sup>, *Draft Recovery Plan for Chaparral*

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<sup>1</sup> Indicates a Recovery Plan that is available on-line at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html>

<sup>2</sup> Indicates maps depicting San Joaquin kit fox satellite populations, linkages, and corridors can be obtained by hard copy by contacting Caroline Prose of the Service at (916) 414-6575.

and Scrub Community Species East of San Francisco Bay, California (USFWS 2002d)<sup>1</sup>, *Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii)* (USFWS 2002a)<sup>1</sup>, and *Recovery Plan for Vernal Pool Ecosystems of California and Southern Oregon* (USFWS 2005)<sup>1</sup>.

- 5) Wetland and associated uplands supporting species such as giant garter snake and valley elderberry longhorn beetle; riparian and other aquatic habitat supporting riparian brush rabbit, riparian woodrat, California red-legged frog, and neotropical migratory birds, with a special emphasis on the San Joaquin Valley. High priority actions include, but are not limited to the following: (a) protection, through fee title or easement acquisition; (b) restoration; (c) investigations of the role of contaminants, water quality, and water management for the giant garter snake; and (d) establishment of refugia for species in flood zones. Proposals should emphasize implementation of priority one tasks for species found in the following recovery plans: *Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan* (USFWS 1984)<sup>3</sup>; *Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California* (USFWS 1998b)<sup>1</sup>; *Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (Rana aurora draytonii)* (USFWS 2002a)<sup>1</sup>; *Final Recovery Plan, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (Empidonax traillii extimus)* (USFWS 2002b)<sup>1</sup>; *Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake* (USFWS 1999)<sup>1</sup>; and *Draft Recovery Plan for the Least Bell's Vireo (Vireo bellii pusillus)* (USFWS 1998c)<sup>3</sup>.
- 6) Of the approximately 5,000 acres recommended for the protection and recovery of listed gabbro soils plants within the Pine Hills Preserve, 3,114 acres have been protected and efforts are underway to acquire an additional 120 acres. Rapid development and escalating land values in and around the Preserve make additional land protection one of the highest priorities for the recovery of these species. Land acquisition, with representation of the specific plant species, is a priority 1 task of the *2002 Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills* (USFWS 2002c)<sup>1</sup>. Acquisition lands which have one or more of the following characteristics will be given the highest priority: 1) are occupied by more than one of the listed gabbro soils plants, with highest priority given to parcels that support El Dorado bedstraw, a federally endangered plant species; and 2) are within or outside of the Pine Hill Preserve and adjacent to existing protected lands.

Fuels management within the Preserve is another priority 1 task identified in the *2002 Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills* (USFWS 2002c)<sup>1</sup>. Substantial portions of the preserve border dense housing developments. Reducing the potential for the ignition of fires within the Preserve and the potential to spread into neighboring developments will always be a goal for Preserve managers. Fuels can be managed by prescribed burns, but in areas near dense human populations other methods are typically preferred. Due to the heavy fuel loadings in the Preserve, there is an immediate high priority to develop and implement a fire management plan that includes alternative fuels

<sup>1</sup> Indicates a Recovery Plan that is available on-line at <http://endangered.fws.gov/recovery/index.html>

<sup>3</sup> Indicates a Recovery Plan that is not available on-line but can be obtained by hard copy by contacting Caroline Prose of the Service at (916) 414-6575.

management strategies and monitoring and evaluation of their effectiveness to reduce fuel loadings while protecting and potentially enhancing gabbro plants and their habitat.

### **Distribution of CVPCP and HRP Funds**

The CVPCP and HRP fund a variety of actions that improve conditions for species and habitats impacted by the CVP, recognizing that a balanced set of actions is needed to meet the stated objectives. The CVPCP and HRP have, however, placed emphasis on certain kinds of activities considered more critical to species' protection and recovery than others. Funds are generally distributed as indicated below for the following activities:

- 1) **Fee Title/Easement Acquisition and Habitat Restoration:** Protection of species or existing habitats impacted by the CVP through the purchase of fee title or conservation easements on lands where threats to these lands are significant; restoration of CVP-impacted habitats where restoration actions will markedly improve conditions for impacted species. **Approximately 70 percent of CVPCP and HRP funds are directed towards this proposed activity.**
- 2) **Studies/Surveys:** Research addressing status, habitat needs, and behavior of CVP-impacted species that will facilitate species recovery. Special consideration will be given to studies that may have a direct impact on raising species baseline, such as development of propagation techniques for listed plants, or conducting research applicable to species reintroduction. Proposal applicants should keep in mind that all research projects will be subject to independent scientific peer review. **Approximately 20 percent of CVPCP and HRP funds are directed towards this proposed activity.**
- 3) **Outreach/Planning/Other:** Public outreach and education, formulation of land management plans, and other activities that generally contribute to improving conditions for CVP-impacted species and habitats. **Approximately 10 percent of CVPCP and HRP funds are directed towards this proposed activity.**

### **Proposal Submission Guidelines**

The CVPCP and HRP have established a **proposal format** which each applicant should use when submitting a proposal (see Attachment A). This format requires that applicants address **detailed information** about the proposal as well as **ranking criteria** which are used to evaluate and rank submitted proposals. Please see Reclamation's website at [www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/](http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvpcp/) for more detailed information about how to submit a proposal.

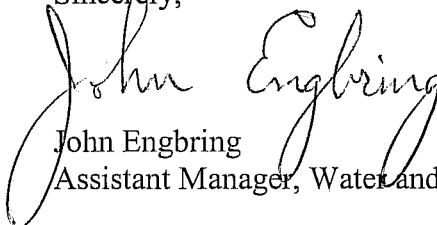
**Proposals for both the CVPCP and HRP can be submitted beginning September 15, 2006. The deadline for proposal submission is December 1, 2006.**

Send proposals to John Thomson, Project Manager, Central Valley Project Conservation Program, MP-150, Bureau of Reclamation, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825 or [jthomson@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:jthomson@mp.usbr.gov). Hard copies of proposals are accepted, however, electronic copies are preferred.

Those who plan on submitting a written proposal(s) are also invited to make an oral presentation to Program Managers and the CVPCP and HRP Technical Team members. **Presentations are currently scheduled for November 1<sup>st</sup> and November 2<sup>nd</sup> from 10:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** at the Federal Building on Cottage Way in Sacramento.

If you would like to schedule a presentation, or if you have questions regarding the CVPCP or HRP, please contact John Thomson with Reclamation at (916) 978-5052, or Caroline Prose with the Service at (916) 414-6575.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "John Engbring". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

John Engbring  
Assistant Manager, Water and Fisheries Resources

cc:

John Thomson, BOR, Sacramento, CA

Rhonda Reed, Bay-Delta Authority, Ecosystem Restoration Project, Sacramento, CA

CVPCP Technical Team

Cay Goude, Service, Sacramento, CA

Ken Sanchez, Service, Sacramento, CA

## LITERATURE CITED

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1984. Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle Recovery Plan. Portland, Oregon. 62 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998a. Recovery Plan for Serpentine Soil Species of the San Francisco Bay Area. Portland, Oregon. 330+ pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998b. Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California. Portland, Oregon. 319 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1998c. Draft Recovery Plan for the Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*).
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Draft Recovery Plan for the Giant Garter Snake. Portland, Oregon. ix+ 192 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002a. Recovery Plan for the California red-legged frog (*Rana aurora draytonii*). Portland, Oregon. viii + 173 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002b. Final Recovery Plan, Southwestern Willow Flycatcher (*Empidonax traillii extimus*). Albuquerque, New Mexico. i-ix + 210pp. + Appendices A-O.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002c. Recovery Plan for Gabbro Soil Plants of the Central Sierra Nevada Foothills. Portland, Oregon. xiii + 220 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2002d. Draft Recovery Plan for Chaparral and Scrub Community Species East of San Francisco Bay, California. Region 1, Portland, Oregon. xvi + 306 pp.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. 2003. Central Valley Project Improvement Act, section 3406 (b)(1) "other," Habitat Restoration Program. Project Plan. Sacramento, California. 11 pp + Appendices A & B.

## ATTACHMENT A

### PROPOSAL FORMAT FOR THE CVP CONSERVATION PROGRAM AND THE HABITAT RESTORATION PROGRAM

- I. Title of Project
- II. Project Objective *(clearly state what objectives the project hopes to achieve when implemented)*
- III. Project Proponent *(include contact information)*
- IV. Location of Project *(include a detailed legal description of the project location, including size of project area along with a map indicating local reference points. Also include photographs of the project site, if applicable.)*
- V. Amount of Funding Request *(specify funds requested from the CVPCP/HRP)*
- VI. Total Project Cost *(specify total estimated cost of the project)*
- VII. Proposed Activities *(provide a detailed description of the action being proposed for funding; include any relevant background information, such as surrounding land-uses, etc...)*
- VIII. Project Timeline *(include milestones and final completion date for each tasks)*
- IX. Existing Habitat and Species Baseline Conditions *(describe habitat conditions and species occurrences on the project site. Include citations of biological surveys that can verify these conditions and occurrences. Conditions should be described for Federal, State, proposed, and candidate species, and Species of Special Concern).*
- X. Relationship to Program Ranking Criteria
  - a. Describe how the proposal will address the following, if applicable:
    1. CVP Nexus *(indicate the proposal's relationship to the CVP)*
    2. Program Priority *(describe how the project relates to current year priorities of the programs as specified in the programs' annual solicitation letter)*
    3. Federally Listed Species (includes species Proposed for listing) *(indicate in as much detail as possible how the project will benefit these species, and how many species will benefit. Define and document existing baseline*

*conditions related to Federally listed species and cite all documented references of species occurrence (i.e., results of species surveys at the project area, reports in the California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) that document the presence of a species at or near the proposed project site, written statements by State and/or Federal biologists having personal knowledge that a species is present at the proposed site). Provide table listing these species and their status...see **attached example**. Also describe whether the proposed action will address species' recovery plan tasks, and state whether designated "critical habitat" is part of the project).*

4. State Listed Species (*indicate how State listed species, including Rare species, may benefit from the project. Apply same provisions as indicated for Federal species and include in species table... see **attached example***)
5. Target Species (*describe how Candidate, and Species of Special Concern may benefit from the project. Apply same provisions as indicated for Federal species and include in species table ...see **attached example***)
6. Habitat/Bio-Diversity (*describe cover types and species diversity within the project area, and how the project will help maintain or benefit these components*)
7. Cumulative Benefit (*indicate how the project relates to the collective influence of other on-going or planned activities related to the same species or habitats*)
8. Long-term Benefit (*address how the project benefits might persist or increase over time*)
9. Project Site Connectivity (*describe how the project is physically connected to another protected or restored parcel*)
10. Partners (*indicate amount of contributions, funds or in-kind services, from partners in relation to the overall cost of the project*)
11. CVP Impacts (*address to what extent a species or habitat was impacted by the CVP*).
12. Project Urgency (*assign a scale of urgency to the action based on the endangerment of a species or the level of threat to a habitat area*)
13. Technical Merit and Completeness of Proposal (*All proposals will be evaluated for their technical merit and completeness. Applications should*



*submit well described and technically accurate proposal packages organized in the above format).*

- XI. Budget (*provide a detail budget sheet that indicates annual costs by tasks and funding category, include cost share partners*).

### EXAMPLE of Species Table

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status <sup>a</sup>	State Status <sup>b</sup>	CNPS Status <sup>c</sup>
<b><u>Plants</u></b>				
Palmate-bracted bird's beak <sup>d</sup>	<i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i>	E	E	1B
Hairy orcutt grass <sup>d</sup>	<i>Orcuttia pilosa</i>	E	E	1B
Greene's tuctoria <sup>d</sup>	<i>Tuctoria greenei</i>	E	R	1B
Hoover's spurge <sup>d</sup>	<i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i>	T		1B
Vernal pool saltbush <sup>e</sup>	<i>Atriplex persistens</i>			1B
Heartscale <sup>e</sup>	<i>Atriplex cordulata</i>			1B
Brittlescale <sup>e</sup>	<i>Atriplex depressa</i>			1B
San Joaquin spearscale <sup>d</sup>	<i>Atriplex joaquiniana</i>			1B
Ferris' milk vetch <sup>d</sup>	<i>Astragulus tener</i> var. <i>ferrisiae</i>			1B
Heckard's pepper-grass <sup>e</sup>	<i>Lepidium latipes</i> var. <i>heckardii</i>			1B
<b><u>Invertebrates</u></b>				
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp <sup>e</sup>	<i>Lepidurus packardi</i>	E		
Conservancy fairy shrimp <sup>d</sup>	<i>Branchinecta conservatio</i>	E		
Vernal pool fairy shrimp <sup>d</sup>	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T		
<b><u>Reptiles</u></b>				
Giant garter snake <sup>e</sup>	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	T	T	
Western pond turtle <sup>e</sup>	<i>Clemmys marmorata</i>	FSC	CSC	
<b><u>Birds</u></b>				
Bald eagle <sup>e</sup>	<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>	T	E	
Swainson's hawk <sup>e</sup>	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>	FSC	T	
White-tailed kite <sup>e</sup>	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>	FSC		
Burrowing owl <sup>e</sup>	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>	FSC	CSC	
White-faced ibis <sup>e</sup>	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>	FSC	CSC	
Long-billed curlew <sup>e</sup>	<i>Numenius americanus</i>	FSC	CSC	
Loggerhead shrike <sup>e</sup>	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>	FSC	CSC	
Tricolored blackbird <sup>e</sup>	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>	FSC	CSC	
Northern harrier <sup>e</sup>	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>		CSC	
Short-eared owl <sup>e</sup>	<i>Asio flammeus</i>		CSC	
California horned lark <sup>e</sup>	<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>		CSC	

<sup>a</sup>E = federally listed as endangered, T= federally listed as threatened, FSC = federal species of concern.

<sup>b</sup>E = state listed as endangered, R = state listed as rare, T = state listed as threatened, CSC = California special concern species.

<sup>c</sup>1B = rare, threatened, or endangered in California and elsewhere.

<sup>d</sup>Present near Tracts G and H.

<sup>e</sup>Present on Tracts G and H.